



Joseph L. von Rosenberg III  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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April 8, 2002

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 99P-5332

To Whom It May Concern:

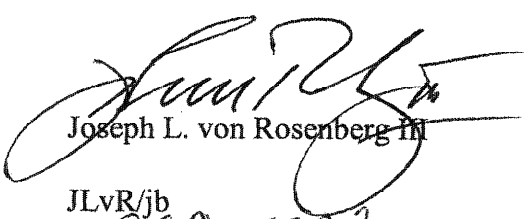
I am writing in response to your *Federal Register* notice of February 26, 2002 in which you requested comments on a citizen petition by the National Fish Meal and Oil Association to approve the addition of a number of new categories to the list of foods approved for the inclusion of menhaden oil as a human food ingredient. **Omega Protein is strongly in support of the NFMOA petition.**

Omega Protein is the nation's leading producer of menhaden oil. Our customers and potential customers tell us that they would like to see the list of food categories approved for the use of menhaden oil increased because of their belief that consumers wish to have a wider access to the nutritional contributions of menhaden oil. Approval of the NFMOA petition would accomplish this by providing new ways for American consumers to include menhaden oil in their healthy diets.

Menhaden oil is also desirable because it comes from a fishery resource that is robust and self-renewing. Menhaden oil is 100 percent domestically produced from fish caught along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States. It is a versatile product which works well as an edible oil in a wide variety of foods.

For these reasons, Omega Protein joins the other members of the menhaden industry in supporting the approval of the proposed rule amending and extending the list of foods in which menhaden oil can be included as a direct human food ingredient.

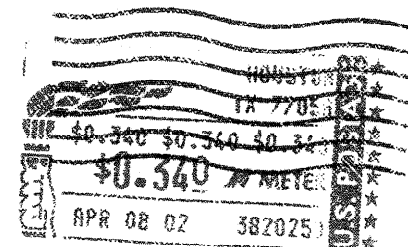
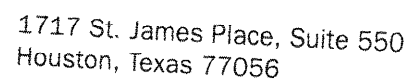
Sincerely,

  
Joseph L. von Rosenberg III

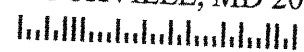
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FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
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